

Paragraph, Page 8, lines 20-29 (bottom of page)

FIGS. 5 and 6 illustrate two preferred embodiments of the transfer member projections engaged to a pipette tip on a receiving plate. In FIG. 5, a projection or boss 44 having a substantially uniform cross-section or diameter throughout its length 43 is illustrated. Even though the boss is shown to be essentially cylindrical in form, it should be understood that projection or boss 44 may be of a variety of suitable lengths, widths, diameters and shapes. Indeed, the bosses may even be tapered from the surface 31 toward the distal end 45 so that entry of the bosses 44 into the openings 26 is facilitated and will yield a snug fit along its length 43. That is, the bosses 44 are shaped to snugly register in the aperture 26 so that the diameter 47 of projections or bosses 44 is preferably equal to or slightly less than the diameter of the aperture 26.

IN THE CLAIMS.

Please amend new claim 10 submitted with the first PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT and add new Claims 15-17. Clean versions of claim 10 and claims 15-17 follow. Claim 10 is presented with deletions in brackets and additions underlines on the attachment hereto.

10. (Amended New Claim) A method for transferring a plurality of pipette tips from a container to a holding tray, said method comprising the steps of:
providing a stack of receiving plates and a plurality of pipette tips,
each of said pipette tips having a first end and a second end spaced from said first end,
said first end having an opening extending into said pipette;

providing a container, said container having a volume to hold a first receiving plate of said stack of receiving plates with a first plurality of pipette tips of said plurality of pipette tips disposed in a first pattern thereon and a second receiving plate of said stack of receiving plates with a second plurality of pipette tips of said plurality of pipette tips disposed in a second pattern thereon and arranged with at least a portion of said second plurality to be nested into the openings of said first plurality of pipette tips, said container including a base having a length and a width, a pair of opposing side walls and a pair of opposing end walls arranged to define said volume, said side walls each having a cut-out portion formed therein sized and positioned for user access to said stack of said receiving plates, said container further having support means positioned within said container proximate said base and connected to one of said side walls, said end walls and said base, said support means being positioned for elevating said first receiving plate above said base;

providing a transfer member that is shaped to fit within said container, said transfer member having an upper surface and a lower surface and a plurality of projections arranged in said first pattern to extend from said lower surface, each projection of said plurality of projections extending from said lower surface a preselected distance to affect stable engagement with a corresponding pipette tip when said projection is received into said opening of said pipette tip and is held therein by the user grasping both a receiving plate with said second plurality of pipette tips thereon and said transfer member positioned ;

providing a holding tray positioned on a support surface, said holding tray having an upper wall spaced from said support surface and a plurality of apertures extending through said

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upper wall and arranged to receive pipette tips in said first pattern and said second pattern;

grasping said transfer member with the thumb and forefinger of a user and positioning said transfer member over said container;

aligning the projections of said transfer member with the openings of said second plurality of pipette tips;

lowering said transfer member into said container until said projections extend into and engage with said second plurality of pipette tips;

grasping both said transfer member and said second receiving plate with the thumb and forefinger of said user and removing said transfer member, said second receiving plate and said second plurality of pipette tips from said container;

positioning said transfer member, said second receiving plate and said second plurality of pipette tips over said holding tray such that said second plurality of pipette tips are aligned with said tray plurality of apertures of said holding tray;

lowering said transfer member, said second receiving plate and said second plurality of pipette tips toward said holding tray until said second plurality of pipette tips has been inserted into and engaged with corresponding apertures of said tray plurality of said holding tray; and

removing said transfer member from said said second plurality of pipette tips.

15. (New Claim) A transfer member for transferring an array of pipette tips mounted on a receiving plate to a holding tray, each of said pipette tips having an upper portion with an opening formed therein, said transfer member comprising:

a base having a upper surface and lower surface, said base being sized proximate the size of said receiving plate and configured to be positionable and holdable relative to said receiving plate only by a finger and thumb of a user; and

a plurality of projections arranged to extend away from said lower surface to register with a plurality of pipette tips of said array of pipette tips, each pipette tip of said array of pipette tips being configured to extend above each receiving plate a preselected distance and each projection of said plurality of projections being sized relative to the size of said opening to extend from said lower surface a preselected distance to snugly and slidably engage said opening of said pipette tip all to effect a stable relationship between said base and said receiving plate when said projections are received into said openings of said pipette tips of said array and are held therein only by the user compressively grasping both a receiving plate and said transfer member with and between the user's thumb and to effect separation of said base and said projections from said plurality of pipette tips solely upon movement of said base away from said plurality of pipette tips.

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16. (New Claim) A transfer member for transferring an array of pipette tips mounted on a receiving plate to a holding tray, each of said pipette tips having an upper portion with an opening formed therein, said transfer member comprising:

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a base having a upper surface and lower surface, said base being sized proximate the size of said receiving plate and configured to be positionable and holdable relative to said receiving plate without any mechanical structure;; and
a plurality of projections arranged to extend away from said lower surface to register with a plurality of pipette tips of said array of pipette tips, each pipette tip of said array of pipette tips being configured to extend above each receiving plate a preselected distance and each projection of said plurality of projections being sized relative to the size of said opening to extend from said lower surface a preselected distance to snugly and slidably engage said opening of said pipette tip all to effect a stable relationship between said base and said receiving plate when said projections are received into said openings of said pipette tips of said array and are held therein only by the user compressively grasping both a receiving plate and said transfer member with and between the user's thumb without any mechanical structure connecting said base and said receiving plate.

REMARKS

This is a second preliminary amendment. The first preliminary amendment presented claims 10-14 as methods . Claims 15-16 are new structure claims which are closely related to the methods. Claim 10 has been amended to be in better form for examination.